

OPINIONS AND DECLARATIONS RENDERED BY THE INTER- NATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

Edited by

FRANCIS HEMMING, C.M.G., C.B.E.

Secretary to the Commission

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OPINION 447

Rejection for nomenclatorial purposes of the original edition published at Philadelphia in 1791 and of the editions published in London and Dublin respectively in 1792 of the work by William Bartram entitled *Travels through North and South Carolina, Georgia, East and West Florida, the Cherokee Country, the extensive territories of the Muscogulges or Creek Confederacy, and the Country of the Chactaws*, as being a work in which the author did not apply the principles of binominal nomenclature

LONDON :

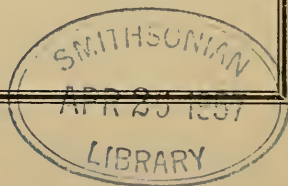
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INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

COMPOSITION AT THE TIME OF THE ADOPTION OF THE RULING GIVEN IN OPINION 447

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(12th August 1953)

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(29th October 1954)

Doc. Dr. Ferdinand PRANTL (*Národní Museum v Praze, Prague, Czechoslovakia*) (30th October 1954)

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(6th November 1954)

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Professor Ernst MAYR (*Museum of Comparative Zoology at Harvard College, Cambridge, Massachusetts, U.S.A.*) (4th December 1954)

Professor Enrico TORTONESE (*Museo di Storia Naturale "G. Doria," Genova, Italy*)
(16th December 1954)

OPINION 447

REJECTION FOR NOMENCLATORIAL PURPOSES OF THE ORIGINAL EDITION PUBLISHED AT PHILADELPHIA IN 1791 AND OF THE EDITIONS PUBLISHED IN LONDON AND DUBLIN RESPECTIVELY IN 1792 OF THE WORK BY WILLIAM BARTRAM ENTITLED "TRAVELS THROUGH NORTH AND SOUTH CAROLINA, GEORGIA, EAST AND WEST FLORIDA, THE CHEROKEE COUNTRY, THE EXTENSIVE TERRITORIES OF THE MUSCOGULGES OR CREEK CONFEDERACY, AND THE COUNTRY OF THE CHACTAWS", AS BEING A WORK IN WHICH THE AUTHOR DID NOT APPLY THE PRINCIPLES OF BINOMINAL NOMENCLATURE

RULING :—(1) Both the original edition published at Philadelphia in 1791 and the later editions published in 1792 in London and Dublin respectively of the under-mentioned work by William Bartram are hereby rejected for nomenclatorial purposes as being editions of a work in which the author did not apply the principles of binominal nomenclature : *Travels through North and South Carolina, Georgia, East and West Florida, the Cherokee Country, the extensive territories of the Muscogulges or Creek Confederacy, and the Country of the Chactaws.*

(2) The title of the work by William Bartram specified in (1) as published in the editions there enumerated is hereby placed on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Works in Zoological Nomenclature* with the under-mentioned Title Numbers :—

(a) Original Edition published at Philadelphia in 1791 (Title No. 52) ;

(b) Edition published in London in 1792 (Title No. 53) ;

(c) Edition published at Dublin in 1792 (Title No. 54).

(3) The under-mentioned generic name is hereby placed on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology* with the Name No. 849 : *Calandra* Bartram, 1791 (a name published in a work rejected for nomenclatorial purposes under (1) as a work in which the author did not apply the principles of binominal nomenclature.

I. THE STATEMENT OF THE CASE

On 20th December 1954 Mr. Francis Hemming (*Secretary to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature*) submitted to the International Commission the following application asking for the rejection, as a work in which the author did not apply the principles of binominal nomenclature both of the original edition published at Philadelphia in 1791 and of the editions published in 1792 in London and Dublin respectively, of the book by William Bartram entitled *Travels through North and South Carolina, Georgia, East and West Florida, the Cherokee Country, the extensive territories of the Muscogulges or Creek Confederacy, and the Country of the Chactaws* :—

Proposed rejection for nomenclatorial purposes of Bartram (W.), 1791, "Travels through North and South Carolina, Georgia, East and West Florida" and of later editions of the same work (a proposal based upon the papers of the late James Lee Peters)

By FRANCIS HEMMING, C.M.G., C.B.E.

(*Secretary to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature*)

At the time of the death of Dr. James Lee Peters, he and I were in correspondence in regard to the question of the status of new names in the book by William Bartram first published in 1791 under the title

Travels through North and South Carolina, Georgia, East and West Florida, the Cherokee Country, the extensive territories of the Muscogulges or Creek Confederacy, and the Country of the Chactaws.

2. So far as the Commission was concerned, this case first arose through the fact that work on an application (Z.N.(S.) 255)¹ relating to the generic name *Calendra* Schellenberg, 1798 (Class Insecta, Order Coleoptera) had shown that *Calandra* Fabricius, 1801, an early emendation of *Calendra* Schellenberg, had been anticipated in the Class Aves by the name *Calandra* published in Bartram's *Travels*. This led me to consult Dr. Peters, since, as Bartram's name *Calandra* had been applied to a North American bird, he would, I felt confident, be in a position to advise the Commission. In his reply, dated 28th October 1947, Dr. Peters wrote as follows:—"The American Ornithologists' Union Check-List Committee, of which I am a member, has voted not to accept any of Bartram's names, either generic or specific, on the grounds that Bartram is neither consistently binary or binominal".

3. In further correspondence Dr. Peters agreed that this question could not be allowed to rest where it then was, since, as generic names were involved, the question affected workers in all branches of the Animal Kingdom, it being necessary for such workers when considering questions of generic homonymy, to know whether the new names in Bartram's *Travels* possessed any status in zoological nomenclature. In a letter dated 24th February 1949, Dr. Peters wrote as follows:—

I have communicated with Dr. Alexander Wetmore, the Chairman of the American Ornithologists' Union Check-List Committee, in regard to the stand of this Committee on Bartram's avian names. The Committee considered only the bird names in the second edition of Bartram's *Travels*, issued in London in 1792, and the explanation of Francis Harper in the *Proceedings of the Rochester Academy of Sciences*, Vol. 8, Sept. 10, 1942, pp. 208—221, and the vote of the Committee after examining the proposals was in the negative with only one member voting in the affirmative. This, I think, is the information you wanted.

4. In view of the fact that, as shown by Dr. Peters, the present question had so far been considered only from the standpoint of avian nomenclature, it was clearly necessary as a first step to examine the treatment accorded by Bartram to names of animals belonging to other Classes of the Animal Kingdom. At that time I was unable to obtain access to a copy of Bartram's *Travels*, and other matters later intervened to prevent me from following up this matter. I have, however, now examined carefully the copy of the edition of this work published in London in 1792, belonging to the Zoological Society of London. This work is, as its title indicates, devoted to an account of the author's

¹ It is anticipated that the application relating to the above name will be published at an early date in Volume 13 of the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature*.

travels. Scattered throughout the volume there are numerous observations on the plants and animals observed. The major observations on animals are gathered together in Chapter X of Part II of the work. This chapter bears in the Table of Contents but not in the text itself the following heading :—"Further account of the rattle snake—account and description of other snakes and animals—catalogue of birds of North America ; observations concerning their migration or annual passage from North to South, and back again." As the foregoing title suggests, the treatment accorded to the birds is much fuller and more ambitious in scope than that attempted for the animals belonging to other Classes. These include snakes, frogs, lizards, tortoises and mammals. For the most part these are cited under vernacular names only, here and there, however, a non-binominal name being given, such as the name "lepus minor, cauda abrupta, pupillis atris" given for the "rabbit". When we come to the "Catalogue" of birds, we find that a systematic arrangement is attempted, the birds being arranged in the following twelve groups, for each of which an English name is given and for all except two a Latin name also : (1) Strix. The Owl ; (2) Vultur. The Vulture ; (3) Falco, Eagle and Hawk ; (4) Milvus. Kite Hawk ; (5) Corvus. The Crow kind ; (6) Picus. Woodpeckers ; (7) Granivorous Tribes. Here follows the heading "Amphibious, or Aquatic Birds", which was apparently intended to serve as a major heading covering the remaining five groups which were :—(8) Grus. The Crane ; (9) Ardea. The Heron ; (10) Tantalus. The Wood Pelican ; (11) Querquedulae. Teal ; (12) Charadrus [sic]. The Plover kind. There is no consistency in the treatment accorded to the foregoing names. For example, in the first three groups (Strix ; Vultur ; Falco) these names are clearly used as generic names, every species placed in these groups being cited as belonging to the genera *Strix*, *Vultur* or *Falco*, as the case may be. In the remaining cases the arrangement adopted is similar to that in the lists given by Brisson in his *Ornithologie* of 1760, that is, the birds placed in the "genera" cited in the main headings appear under a variety of generic names. For example, of the four species cited under the heading "Milvus", three are cited as belonging to *Falco* and one as belonging to *Psittacus* ; of the eight species cited under the heading "Corvus", five are cited as belonging to *Corvus*, two as belonging to *Gracula* and one to *Cuculus*. The next group "Picus" embraces forty-two species, of which the first eight are cited under the name *Picus*, the remaining thirty-four being distributed over fourteen other genera (*Sitta* ; *Certhia* ; *Alcedo* ; *Muscicapa* ; *Alauda* ; *Oriolus*, etc.). The same lack of consistency is shown in the treatment of the actual names of species. Many of these are in strict binominal form, but this appears to be due more to accident than to any other reason, being attributable in most cases to the fact that the names used were copied from earlier works by authors who followed the binominal system. That Bartram himself was no binominalist is shown by the frequent use of names consisting of (a) a generic name, and (b) a string of Latin words used as a descriptive epithet. This may be illustrated by the following examples :—

(1) *Parus viridis gutture nigro* ; the green black throated flycatcher (: 290) ; (2) *Ardea purpurea cristata* ; the little crested purple or blue heron (: 291) ; (3) *Numenius pectore rufo* ; the great red breasted godwit (: 291) ; (4) *Anas fera torquata major* ; the great wild duck, called duck and mallard.

5. The next step was to examine the first edition of 1791 of Bartram's *Travels* in order to determine whether the names discussed in the preceding paragraph appeared in that edition as well as in the second edition of 1792. There is a copy of the first edition in the library of the British Museum (Natural History), in which library there is also a copy of the edition published in Dublin in 1792. An examination of these editions shows that they are practically identical with the London edition of 1792 and that in both the names cited in paragraph 4 of the present note and also the other names there referred to appear in exactly the same form. The system of nomenclature used in all three editions is identical.

6. I accordingly recommend that the Commission should pronounce against the availability of new names in the various editions of Bartram's *Travels*, in all of which the system of nomenclature is, as shown in paragraph 4 of the present application, non-binominal in character and therefore inconsistent with the provisions of Article 25 of the *Règles*. At the same time I recommend that the Commission should formally reject the name *Calandra* Bartram, 1791, (*Travels North and South Carolina, Georgia, East and West Florida* : 289) as being a name published in a work rejected for nomenclatorial purposes.

7. The recommendation now submitted is therefore that the International Commission should :—

- (1) give a ruling that neither in the original edition published in Philadelphia in 1791 nor in the editions published in London and Dublin respectively in 1792 of the work entitled *Travels through North and South Carolina, Georgia, East and West Florida, the Cherokee Country, the extensive territories of the Muscogulges or Creek Confederacy, and the Country of the Chactaws* did William Bartram apply the principles of binominal nomenclature and therefore that no name published in any of the editions of the foregoing work acquired the status of availability in virtue of being so published ;
- (2) place the title of the foregoing work as published at Philadelphia in 1791 and in London and Dublin respectively in 1792 on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Works in Zoological Nomenclature* ;
- (3) place the under-mentioned generic name on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology* :—*Calandra*

Bartram, 1791 (a name published in a work rejected for nomenclatorial purposes).

II. THE SUBSEQUENT HISTORY OF THE CASE

2. Registration of the present application : When in 1944 correspondence was entered into between the Secretary and Dr. James Lee Peters on the subject of the nomenclatorial status of Bartram's *Travels*, the problem involved was allotted the Registered Number Z.N.(S.) 256.

3. Publication of the present application : The present application was sent to the printer on 31st December 1954 and was published on 28th February 1955 in Part 3 of Volume 11 of the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature* (Hemming, 1955, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* **11** : 99—102).

4. Support received for the present application : Following the publication of the present application support for the action proposed was received from one specialist (Captain C. H. B. Grant (*British Museum (Natural History), London*) during the Prescribed Six-Month Waiting Period. After the close of that Period (and after also the issue of the Voting Paper in this case) a communication was received from Dr. W. I. Follett, Chairman of the Committee on Zoological Nomenclature of the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists, notifying the unanimous support of that Committee for the action proposed and giving extracts from the letters received from the six specialists concerned, together with comments from two other specialists who were consulted. The communications so received are reproduced in the immediately following paragraphs.

5. Support received from C. H. B. Grant (British Museum (Natural History), London) : On 4th March 1955 Captain C. H. B.

Grant (*British Museum (Natural History), London*) communicated with the Office of the Commission as follows :—

Re your proposal in *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* **11**(3) : 99 on Bartram's *Trav. Carolina*, see Sherborn, *Ind. Anim.* : xiii, 1902, who has already placed this work as [n.b.].

6. Support received from the Committee on Zoological Nomenclature of the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists : On 25th November 1955 Dr. W. I. Follett, Chairman of the Committee on Zoological Nomenclature of the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists forwarded to the Office of the Commission the views of the six members of that Committee and those of the two other specialists who were consulted with regard to the present case. The communication so received was as follows :—

The Committee on Zoological Nomenclature, of the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists, has voted unanimously in favor of your proposal (published in the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature*, **11**(3), 1955, pages 99—102) that the book by William Bartram first published in 1791 under the title *Travels through North and South Carolina, Georgia, East and West Florida . . .*, and later editions of that work, be rejected for nomenclatorial purposes.

Excerpts from the correspondence of all committee members are the following :—

W. I. Follett (*California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco*) :

Members of the Committee . . . : This letter is intended to direct your attention to a paper entitled "Proposed Rejection for Nomenclatorial Purposes of Bartram (W.), 1791, *Travels Through North and South Carolina, Georgia, East and West Florida* and of Later Editions of the Same Work (A Proposal Based Upon the Papers of the Late James Lee Peters)", which was published by Mr. Francis Hemming in the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature*, **11**(3), 1955, pages 99—102.

The proposed rejection is based on the fact that Bartram did not, in this work, consistently apply the principles of binominal nomenclature as required by the rule set forth in the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature*, **4**(7/9), 1950, page 175, Conclusion 67.

Although I have not personally examined Bartram's work, and Mr. Hemming does not specifically state that it contains the names of fishes, I find no reason to doubt that it is the same work from which Dr. Francis Harper (*Copeia*, 1942, No. 1, page 50) exhumed the specific name *coronarius*, which most of us have since used for the species theretofore known as *Chaenobryttus gulosus* (Cuvier and Valenciennes).

In view of the relatively short period of time during which the name *coronarius* has been used, as contrasted with the period of more than a century during which the name *gulosus* was used for this species, I am not convinced that we should oppose the rejection of Bartram's work or that we should request the conservation of the specific name *coronarius*. Rather, I am disposed to welcome this opportunity to restore the name *gulosus*, which has had such extensive usage.

Will each of you please send me an expression of his views on this subject? . . . When our position has been determined we may wish to ascertain the consensus of a representative number of ichthyologists throughout the United States, before we submit our final report to Mr. Hemming. Do you favor such a poll?

Robert Rush Miller (*University of Michigan, Ann Arbor*):

This is in response to your letter of August 1 regarding the proposed rejection of Bartram's (1791) *Travels* . . .

I have examined the first edition of this work (published in Philadelphia) in order to verify that it is the volume in which Bartram proposed the name *Cyprinus coronarius* for the warmouth bass, as pointed out by Harper (*Copeia*, 1942, no. 1, p. 50). I also wished to determine whether any other new names were proposed for fishes, or for reptiles or amphibians. I could find none for fishes and Dr. Charles F. Walker, Associate Curator of Reptiles and Amphibians, in the University of Michigan Museum of Zoology, advises me that when Dr. Harper proposed to resurrect certain herpetological names from Bartram's book, Dr. Thomas Barbour disapproved and the paper was never published.

The ornithologists, and I believe the mammalogists too, have rejected this work. Since Bartram was not consistently binominal, the proposed official rejection by the Commission is well founded. I too welcome the return to the name *Chaenobryttus gulosus* (Cuvier) for the warmouth bass, and see no reason to request the preservation of the specific name *coronarius*.

I am not in favor of a poll to ascertain the consensus of a representative number of ichthyologists on this matter. As you say, the name *gulosus* was used for more than a century prior to 1942. I think the change back to *gulosus* can be effected without undue hardship to anyone.

Jay M. Savage (*Pomona College, Claremont, California*) :

With regard to Bartram's 1791 work, there can be little objection to suppressing the herpetological portions. Only one new name, *Testudo polyphemus*, is a valid binomial as published and this same name was subsequently applied to the same species by Daudin in 1803. In the event Bartram is outlawed the Daudin name would have priority and no name change could result.

In view of this situation, I strongly endorse the suggestion that the herpetological portions of Bartram's work be rejected.

Hobart M. Smith (*University of Illinois, Urbana*) :

In reply to yours of August 1 regarding suppression of Bartram's *Travels* of 1791, I refer to Harper's very pertinent paper ("Some works of Bartram, Daudin, Latreille, and Sonnini, and their bearing upon North American herpetological nomenclature") published in the *Amer. Mid. Nat.*, Vol. 23, 1940, pp. 692—723. Harper states (p. 695) that the only binominal name Bartram proposed in herpetology was *Testudo polyphaemus*, the Florida gopher tortoise. Presumably because Bartram did not follow the binominal policy consistently the name has with rare exception been attributed to Daudin (1801), who used the spelling *Testudo polyphemus*.

Harper presented a case for attribution of the name for this turtle to Bartram rather than Daudin. No one has accepted his defense as adequate, so far as I know; and in such important works as those of Schmidt (*Checklist N.A. herps*, 1953) and Carr (*Handbook of Turtles*, 1952) the name is still attributed to Daudin and is spelled *polyphemus*.

My point is only that, so far as herpetology is concerned, it is relatively immaterial whether Bartram's work is suppressed or not, and that therefore if there are pressing considerations pertaining to other groups they should receive priority over any considerations pertaining to herpetology. If no strong case can be made in any group for either course of action (suppression or not), or if the case favors suppression, it would be of some merit to point out that the least disturbing and most useful disposition, so far as herpetology is concerned, would be to suppress Bartram's work.

Supplementary Note from Hobart M. Smith :

The copies circulated to the ASIH committee on Zoological Nomenclature, of your letter of November 8 to Drs. Hubbs and Bailey, did not, I know, request any action by the members of that committee. Nevertheless, I thought the following comments might be of at least corroborative value somewhere along the line.

According to Harper (1940, *Amer. Mid. Nat.* 23 : 694) Bartram 1791 named only one reptile, *Testudo polyphaemus*, a name (in the form of *Testudo polyphemus*) usually attributed to Daudin, 1801 (or 1803, by error). Suppression of Bartram's work in taxonomy would serve only to clarify authorship of the name (some authors maintaining it should go to Bartram), in herpetology. So far as the latter field is concerned the door is open for whatever procedure is indicated as expedient in other fields.

Robert C. Stebbins (*University of California, Berkeley*) :

I go along with you in your position on Bartram's work.

Norman J. Wilimovsky (*Stanford University, California*) :

This is in reply to your letter of August 1, 1955 concerning the proposed rejection for nomenclatorial purposes of Bartram, 1791.

Perusal of this problem suggests that I follow your lead in the rejection of Bartram. However, I strongly recommend that both Dr. Reeve M. Bailey and Dr. Carl L. Hubbs be approached on this question as they have dealt more with the systematics of the sun-fishes than any other contemporary American worker.

Unless either Dr. Bailey or Dr. Hubbs should present a contrary argument I would move with you in the rejection of Bartram.

Letters written pursuant to Mr. Wilimovsky's suggestion that Dr. Bailey and Dr. Hubbs be consulted have elicited the following replies :

Reeve M. Bailey (*University of Michigan, Ann Arbor*) :

Bartram did not consistently apply the principles of binomial nomenclature, as suggested by Mr. Hemming, then of course I agree that the names should be rejected unless in specific cases confusion should result. In the latter case it might be desirable for the Commission to make special exceptions.

Few names of American fishes have been more stable than that of *Chaenobryttus gulosus* (Cuvier)*. During modern times no other name combination had been used until Harper resurrected the name *coronarius* of Bartram. From the viewpoint of my personal preference as well as the technical judgment in the case, a return to *Chaenobryttus gulosus* seems desirable. In case of doubt I hold for the retention of established usage.

Carl L. Hubbs (*University of California, La Jolla*) :

I approve the proposed suppression of Bartram, 1791.

* Note that the author is Cuvier, in Cuvier and Valenciennes.

7. No objection received : No objection to the action proposed in the present case has been received from any source.

III. THE DECISION TAKEN BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

8. Issue of Voting Paper V.P.(55)28 : On 22nd November 1955 a Voting Paper (V.P.(55)28) was issued in which the Members of the Commission were invited to vote either for, or against, "the proposal relating to the status of Bartram's *Travels* as set out in Points (1) to (3) in paragraph 7 on page 101 and the top of page 102 of Volume 11 of the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature*" [i.e. in the paragraph numbered as above in the paper reproduced in the first paragraph of the present *Opinion*].

9. The Prescribed Voting Period : As the foregoing Voting Paper was issued under-the Three-Month Rule, the Prescribed Voting Period closed on 22nd February 1956.

10. Particulars of the Voting on Voting Paper V.P.(55)28 : At the close of the Prescribed Voting Period, the state of the voting on Voting Paper V.P.(55)28 was as follows :—

(a) *Affirmative Votes had been given by the following twenty-four (24) Commissioners (arranged in the order in which Votes were received) :*

Holthuis ; Hering ; Riley ; Vokes ; Mayr ; Jaczewski ; Lemche ; Prantl ; Dymond ; Esaki ; do Amaral ; Key ; Boschma ; Sylvester-Bradley ; Mertens ; Cabrera ; Bonnet ; Miller ; Tortonese ; Kühnelt ; Bradley (J.C.) ; Stoll ; Hankó ; Hemming ;

(b) *Negative Votes, one (1) :*

Bodenheimer ;

(c) *Voting Papers not returned :*

None.

11. Declaration of Result of Vote : On 23rd February 1956, Mr. Hemming, Secretary to the International Commission, acting as Returning Officer for the Vote taken on Voting Paper V.P.(55)28, signed a Certificate that the Votes cast were as set out in paragraph 10 above and declaring that the proposal submitted in the foregoing Voting Paper had been duly adopted and that the decision so taken was the decision of the International Commission in the matter aforesaid.

12. Preparation of the Ruling given in the present "Opinion" : On 10th November 1956 Mr. Hemming prepared the Ruling given in the present *Opinion* and at the same time signed a Certificate that the terms of that Ruling were in complete accord with those of the proposal approved by the International Commission in its Vote on Voting Paper V.P.(55)28.

13. The prescribed procedures were duly complied with by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature in dealing with the present case, and the present *Opinion* is accordingly hereby rendered in the name of the said International Commission by the under-signed Francis Hemming, Secretary to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, in virtue of all and every the powers conferred upon him in that behalf.

14. The present *Opinion* shall be known as *Opinion* Four Hundred and Forty-Seven (447) of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature.

DONE in London, this Tenth day of November, Nineteen Hundred and Fifty-Six.

*Secretary to the International Commission
on Zoological Nomenclature*

FRANCIS HEMMING